

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated June 27, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-11, 13, 16-17, 35, 37-44, 64-65, 69-70, 75, 77-79, 82, and 84-89 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,524 (Weber), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,104,790 (Narayanaswami). Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over Weber in view of Narayanaswami.

Regarding independent claim 1, neither Weber nor Narayanaswami, alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest at least a speech recognition apparatus including a processor configured to analyze and modify a grammar prior to receiving a speech input, wherein the speech input is not an acceptable response in the grammar, but is acceptable in the modified grammar. Weber teaches an object interactive user interface using speech recognition and language processing updates, wherein a general grammar and context-specific grammar include new information related to a user's responses during a context-based interactive dialogue. Weber does not disclose a processor configured to analyze the grammar prior to receiving speech input, to identify at least one characteristic of the grammar independent of prior speech input (see 6/27/08 Office Action, p. 3). Narayanaswami discloses a communication system including an interactive display for displaying a voice menu file (Abstract). The object of Narayanaswami is to save a user from listening to lengthy audio phone menus, or having to remember the options (Col. 1, ll. 13-23). Hence, the voice menu file can be transmitted to display device via a communication link such as the internet. (Col. 5, ll. 29-34). The key advantage is that all options in a menu level are presented in a visual screen up front, all at once. (Col. 6, ll. 43-45). The Examiner asserts that the transfer of this text based voice menu file is analyzing and modifying a grammar. Applicants respectfully disagree. Narayanaswami simply discloses a text file transfer to a display device, and is completely silent regarding any type of speech recognition and grammar analysis. Accordingly, in

view of the deficiencies of Weber, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness because neither Weber nor Narayanaswami teach, disclose, or suggest at least a speech recognition apparatus including a processor configured to analyze and modify a grammar prior to receiving a speech input, wherein the speech input is not an acceptable response in the grammar, but is acceptable in the modified grammar, as recited in claim 1. For least these reasons, independent claim 1 and claims 3, 4, 6-11, 13, 16, 64, 65, 69 and 70 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable over Weber in view of Narayanaswami.

Regarding independent claim 35, neither Weber nor Narayanaswami alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest a computer executable method of modifying a first grammar as a function of a characteristic to produce a second grammar representative of a second set of responses, wherein at least a portion of the second set of responses are not included in the first set of responses. Weber modifies a grammar based upon previous user input, and does not analyze a grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer. Narayanaswami transmits a text based voice menu file to a display device via a communication link such as the internet. (Col. 5, ll. 29-34). Weber and Narayanaswami are silent regarding modifying a grammar to produce a second grammar. In contrast, claim 35 recites a method of providing a user interface including receiving a first grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer from an application, the first grammar including information representative of a first set of responses expected to be received by the application, analyzing the first grammar to identify a characteristic prior to receiving the first set of responses, modifying the first grammar as a function of the characteristic to produce a second grammar representative of a second set of responses, wherein at least a portion of the second set of responses are not included in the first set of responses, and interpreting a user's voice input based on the second grammar. For at least these reasons, independent claim 35 and claims 37-44, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 35, are patentable over Weber in view of Narayanaswami.

Regarding independent claim 75, Weber and Narayanaswami do not teach, disclose, or suggest a method of providing a user interface including analyzing a first grammar prior to receiving a first set of responses to identify a characteristic, and selecting a response to be sent to the application as a function of the characteristic,

wherein the selected response is sent to the application without receiving input from a user. Weber discloses update modifications to a grammar that provide a system for adaptability learning to recognize phrases uttered by a user, so that the next time the user asks for information, a proper match is found and appropriate actions taken without prompting the user for more information. Thus, the actions taken in Weber are based on at least a phrase uttered by the user. Narayanaswami transmits a text based voice menu file to a display device via a communication link such as the internet. (Col. 5, ll. 29-34). The voice menu file in Narayanaswami is transmitted if the local menu file is not current. (Col. 5, ll. 40-43). Applicants respectfully assert that the file transfer in Narayanaswami is not based on a characteristic of a first grammar, as recited in claim 75. Neither Weber nor Narayanaswami disclose analyzing a first grammar prior to receiving a first set of responses to identify a characteristic, and selecting a response to be sent to the application as a function of the characteristic, as recited in claim 75. For at least these reasons, independent claim 75 and claims 77-79, 82, and 84-89, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 75, are patentable over Weber in view of Narayanaswami.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



T. J. Clark, Registration No. 54,039
Attorney for Applicants
c/o Mintz, Levin
One Financial Center
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone 617/ 348-3022
Customer Number 30623

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